

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 219483
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, GW, WB, OVIP

SUBJECT: STOESSEL LETTER TO FORD MOTOR COMPANY

REF: A. USBERLIN 2266, B. WOESSNER-GEORGE LETTER SEPT. 2

1. LETTER DATED AUGUST 31 FROM AMBASSADOR STOESSEL TO WILLIAM BRODERICK, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AT FORD MOTOR COMPANY (REF B) WAS SIGNED AND DISPATCHED BY THE AMBASSADOR EARLY WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5 FROM REHOBOTH. WHILE FORD HAD ALREADY GONE ON RECORD AGAINST BERLIN BEFORE LETTER WAS SENT, WE THOUGHT IT

NONETHELESS WORTHWHILE TO TRY TO GET BERLINERS A CHANCE TO STATE THEIR CASE IN DETROIT.

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

WHILE I AM ON LEAVE, I THOUGHT I WOULD FOLLOW UP DAVID
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ANDERSON'S LETTER TO YOU WITH SOME THOUGHTS OF MY OWN CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE LOCATION OF A FORD PLANT IN BERLIN. I CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO DO SO SINCE, AS YOU KNOW, I ALSO WEAR THE HAT OF CHIEF OF MISSION, BERLIN.

THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS THE LONG TERM VITALITY OF

THE WEST BERLIN ECONOMY TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF A FREE BERLIN AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF US INTERESTS THERE. THIS VIEW WAS REFLECTED IN THE SUMMIT DECLARATION ON BERLIN ISSUED IN LONDON IN MAY BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE THREE ALLIES AND THE FRG, A COPY OF WHICH I ENCLOSE.

I BELIEVE THE LOCATION IN BERLIN OF THE FORD PLANT PLANNED FOR CONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE WOULD BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE OF THE CITY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE NEW JOBS AND CAPITAL WHICH IT WOULD PROVIDE BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE IMPULSE WHICH IT WOULD LEND TO BERLIN'S EFFORTS TO ATTRACT OTHER MAJOR INVESTMENTS AND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL LIFT IT WOULD GIVE TO THE BERLINERS. IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH FORD'S CLOSE LINKS WITH THE POSTWAR HISTORY OF THE CITY, IN PARTICULAR THE FORD FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT FOR THE FREE UNIVERSITY, WHOSE CENTRAL BUILDING BEARS THE FORD NAME.

HOWEVER, I REALIZE WHATEVER THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE, IT WILL BE THE ECONOMIC FACTORS WHICH MUST BE DECISIVE FOR FORD. THIS FACT WAS ALSO RECOGNIZED BY BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR DIETRICH STOBBE WHEN HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE FORD PLANT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN AUGUST. I UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNING MAYOR WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP THE BERLIN GOVERNMENT'S DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT WITH FORD EUROPE BY SENDING A TECHNICAL TEAM TO DETROIT TO DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE ADVANTAGES WHICH FORD WOULD ENJOY IN BERLIN. I WOULD WELCOME IT IF FORD COULD SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO RECEIVE THE BERLINERS AND CONSIDER THEIR PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT KNOW ITS SUBSTANCE, I UNDERSTAND IT MAY BE MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED WITH FORD EUROPE.

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, I APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERATION.
END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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